

Disney
PRINCESS

Beauty and the Beast



Sally

Once upon a time, a spoiled, selfish prince
lived in a shining castle deep in the forest.







One winter's night, an old beggar woman came to the castle and offered the prince a rose in return for shelter. The unkind prince thought the beggar's appearance was disgusting, so he turned her away.





Suddenly, the old woman transformed into an enchantress. With her magic she changed the prince into a beast and placed a spell on the castle.

If the prince could learn to love, and be loved in return, before the last rose petal fell, the spell would end. If not, he would stay a beast forever.



Many years later, a young woman named Belle dreamed of finding an exciting life. She lived in a small rural village but longed for adventures like those she read about in her books.





Belle's love of reading made most of the villagers think she was strange. But she was also very beautiful. That's why Gaston, the most handsome and vain young man in the village, wanted to marry her.



Belle didn't want to marry Gaston at all – especially because he didn't appreciate her love of books.

"It's not right for a woman to read," Gaston told her. "Soon she gets ideas, starts thinking."

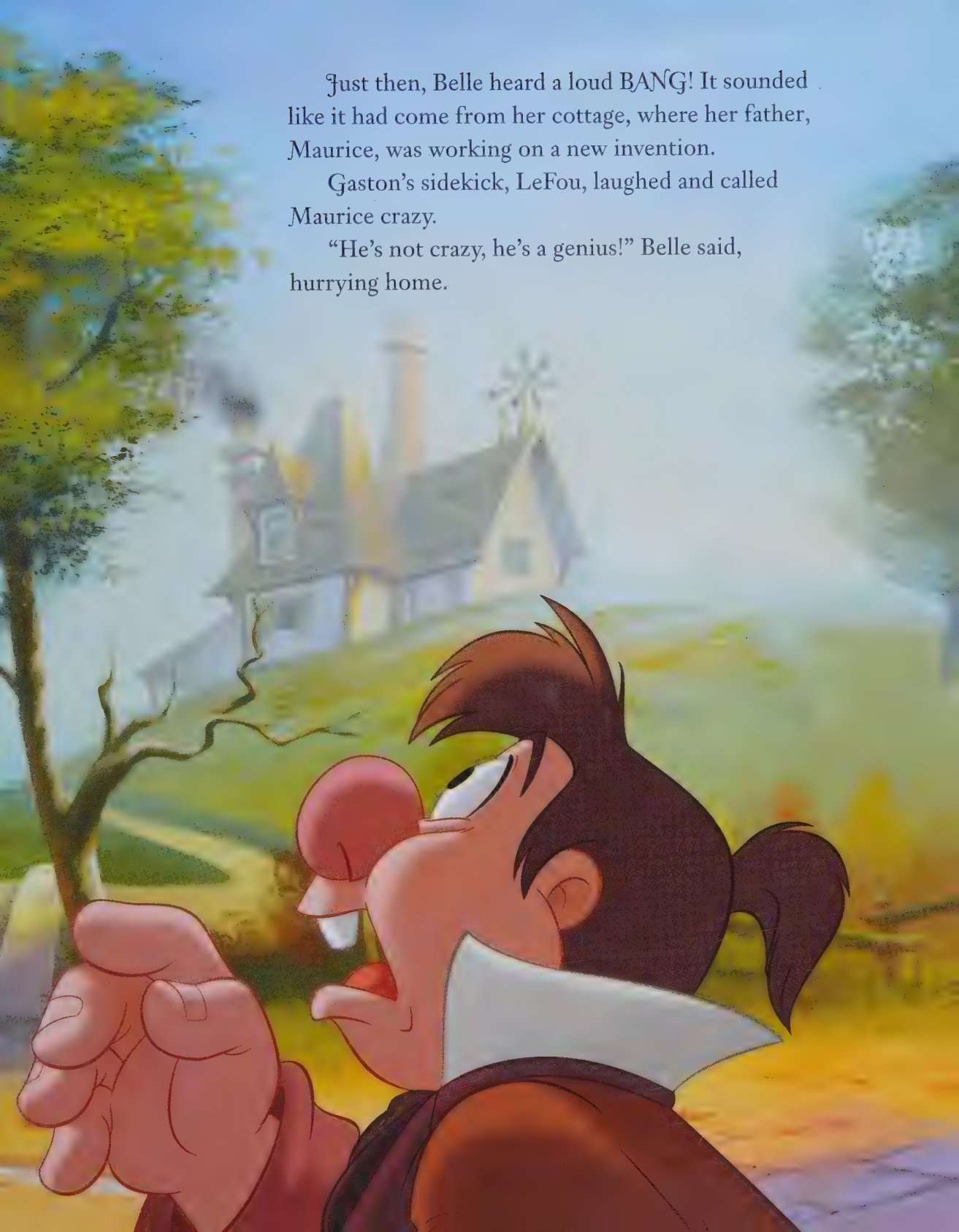




Just then, Belle heard a loud BANG! It sounded like it had come from her cottage, where her father, Maurice, was working on a new invention.

Gaston's sidekick, LeFou, laughed and called Maurice crazy.

"He's not crazy, he's a genius!" Belle said, hurrying home.



At home, Belle found Maurice surrounded by pieces of his new invention, an automatic wood chopper.

"I'll never get this bone-headed contraption to work in time for the invention fair tomorrow!" Maurice said.

"Yes, you will," said Belle. "And you'll win first prize, I know it."





With Belle's encouragement, Maurice repaired his invention. Then he loaded it on to a wagon, hopped on to his trusty horse Philippe, and set out for the fair.

Belle knew the villagers thought Maurice was a little strange, but she believed in him with all her heart.



As evening fell, Maurice became confused about which direction to go. At a crossroads, he chose a path that soon grew dark and tangled. Before long he was lost in the forest.

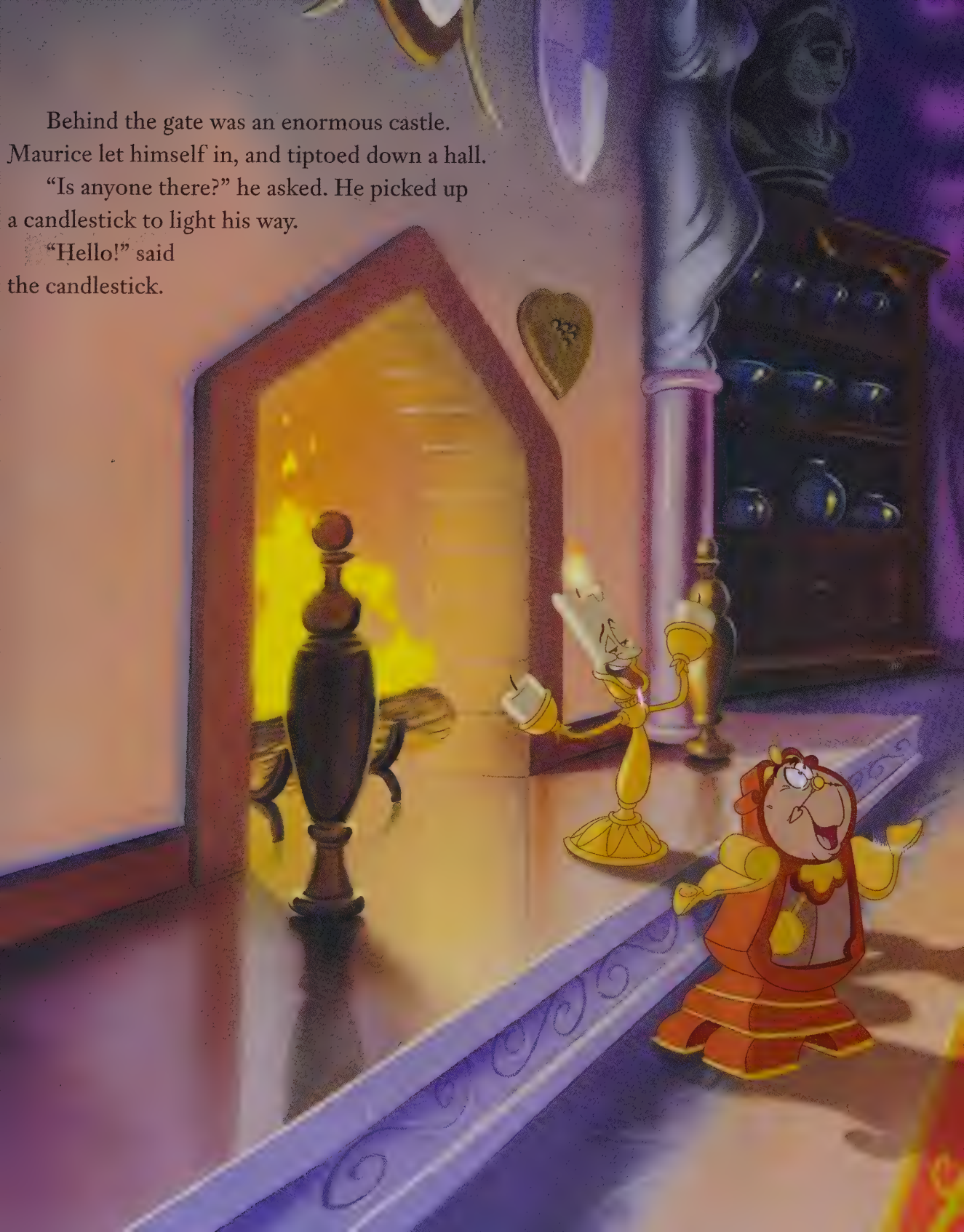
Suddenly, wolves howled nearby. Philippe threw Maurice off and bolted away. The snarling wolves cornered Maurice in front of a huge gate. Maurice banged on the gate until it creaked open, and he stumbled inside.



Behind the gate was an enormous castle.
Maurice let himself in, and tiptoed down a hall.

"Is anyone there?" he asked. He picked up
a candlestick to light his way.

"Hello!" said
the candlestick.





The castle was full of enchanted objects that could move and talk like people. Maurice couldn't believe his eyes! The candlestick, Lumiere, and a clock named Cogsworth led Maurice to a comfortable chair in front of a warm fire.

Suddenly, a huge beast entered the room.
“So you’ve come to stare?” the Beast snarled.

“I meant no harm,” Maurice said. “I needed a place to stay.”

“I’ll give you a place to stay,” the Beast replied.
Then he threw Maurice in the dungeon!







Meanwhile, Gaston had decided it was time for a wedding. Belle was surprised when he announced that this was the day her dreams would come true – by marrying him!

“I’m very sorry, Gaston, but I don’t deserve you,” said Belle. She opened the door and ...





... SPLAT! Gaston lost his balance
and fell into a muddy pond.

“I’ll have Belle for my wife, make
no mistake about that!” he shouted.

Just then, Philippe galloped into the yard – alone.

“What happened? Where’s Papa?” Belle asked the frightened horse. “You have to take me to him!”





It was growing dark when Philippe brought Belle to the castle gate. She hurried inside, determined to find her father.

At last, Belle found Maurice shivering and coughing in the dungeon.

“You must go ... now!” Maurice said when he saw Belle.

Suddenly, a shadow fell across the floor.







The Beast stepped into the light. "What are you doing here?" he roared. Belle pleaded with him to let Maurice go, but the Beast refused. "Take me instead," said Belle.

The Beast paused for a moment. "You must promise to stay here forever," he said.

Belle wanted to save her father, so she agreed.



Maurice raced back to the village, shouting for help.
He explained that Belle needed rescuing from a horrible beast.
But everyone laughed at “crazy old Maurice”. Everyone except
Gaston, that is. He had just thought of a way to use Maurice to
force Belle into marriage.



In the castle, Belle met the enchanted servants, including Mrs Potts, a motherly teapot, and her son, a teacup named Chip.

“That was a very brave thing you did,” said Mrs Potts. She knew Belle had chosen to stay in the castle to help Maurice.





Feeling upset, Belle refused to have dinner with the Beast. But later that night, the staff treated her to a feast, complete with singing and dancing! They were thrilled to finally have a guest.



After dinner, Belle wanted to explore the castle. The Beast had forbidden her to go into the West Wing, which made her curious.

Cogsworth and Lumiere tried to keep her away, but Belle slipped away from them and ventured up the stairs.

Belle peeked into a darkened room and gasped. The curtains were ripped. Broken furniture and mirrors lay scattered as if someone had torn everything apart.



Then Belle saw a rose glowing under a glass dome.
Several petals had fallen off. Entranced by its beauty,
she reached out. But before she could touch it ...





... the Beast burst into the room. "I warned you never to come here," he bellowed. "Do you know what you could have done? Get out!"





Terrified, Belle ran from the castle. “Promise or no promise, I can’t stay here another minute,” she said.

She climbed on to Philippe, who was waiting outside the gate, and the two raced into the forest. But soon, ferocious wolves surrounded them!



Suddenly, the Beast sprang out from the shadows. Growling and snarling, he fought off the wolves with their snapping jaws.

At last the pack fled, howling into the forest. The Beast had saved Belle's life.

But the Beast was hurt. Belle returned to the castle and tended his wounds.

“If you hadn’t run away, this wouldn’t have happened,” the Beast said.

“If you hadn’t frightened me, I wouldn’t have run away,” Belle replied. Then she added, “Thank you for saving my life.”

“You’re welcome,” said the Beast.





As the days passed, Belle began to see the goodness inside the Beast, and he learned to be gentler and kind. Even little birds noticed the difference in him, perching fearlessly on his shoulders.

The castle staff watched Belle and the Beast hopefully. Mrs Potts told Chip that something special was happening. Perhaps, just perhaps, the spell would finally be broken.

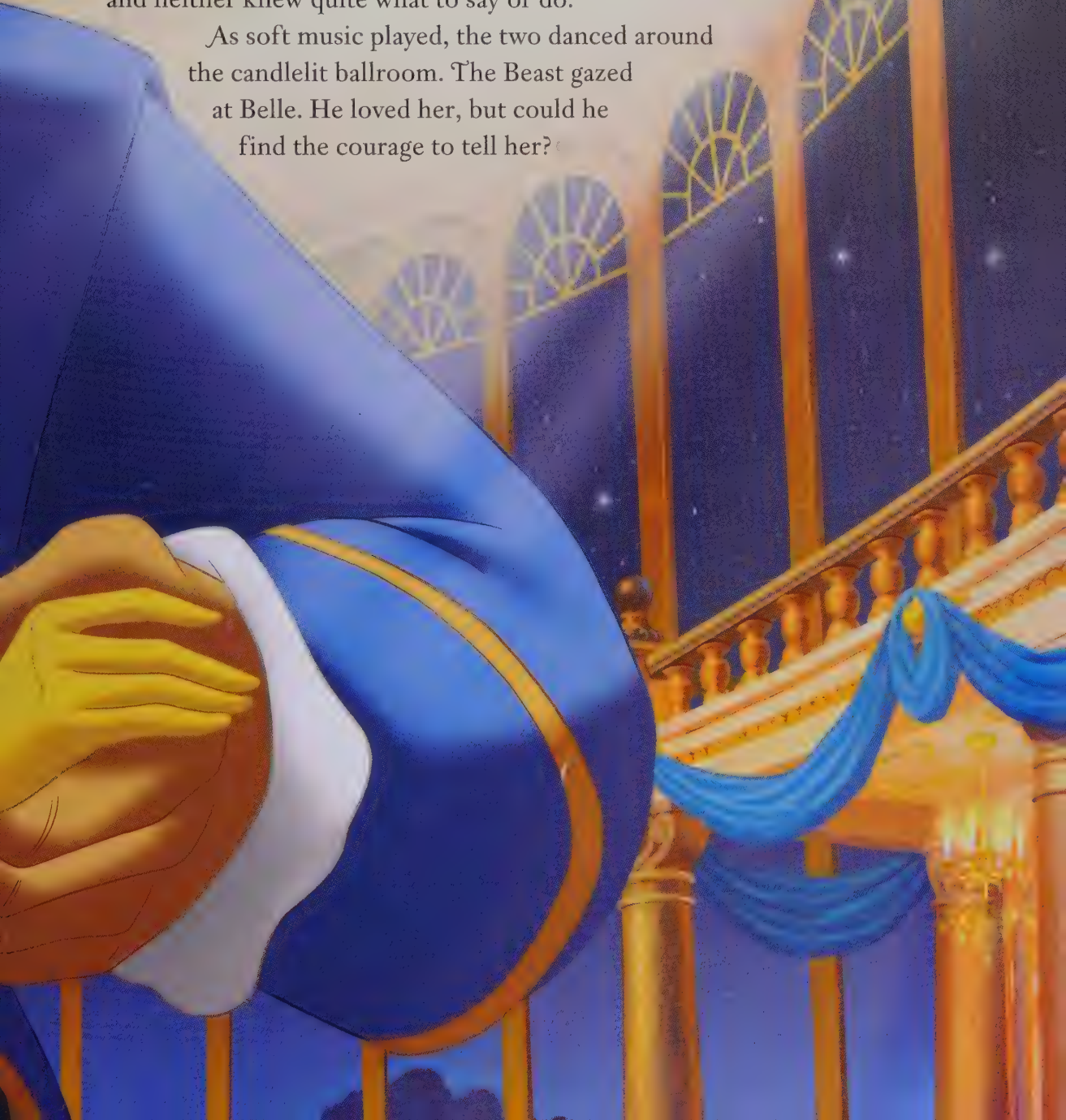




One evening, the Beast arranged an elegant dinner. He looked handsome in his suit and he tried hard to act like a gentleman. Belle was beautiful in her gown.

But both felt nervous. They were starting to care for each other, and neither knew quite what to say or do.

As soft music played, the two danced around the candlelit ballroom. The Beast gazed at Belle. He loved her, but could he find the courage to tell her?



Belle told the Beast she was happy, except that she missed her father. So he showed her a magic mirror that revealed an image of Maurice. He looked ill!

Only one petal remained on the enchanted rose, but the Beast released Belle from her promise, letting her return to her father.





The Beast gave Belle the mirror to remember him by. As she rode away, he howled. All hope for breaking the spell was now gone.

Belle rushed home to Maurice. To their surprise, Chip had sneaked into her bag and come along, too.

“How did you escape that horrible beast?” asked Maurice.

“He’s different now, Papa,” Belle said. Before she could explain, there was a knock at the door.





Guards had arrived
to take Maurice away!
Gaston had arranged for
him to be declared insane.

Gaston cornered
Belle. "I might be able
to clear up this little
misunderstanding," he said,
"if you marry me."

"Never!" said Belle.

To prove that her father wasn't crazy, Belle showed the villagers the Beast's image in the enchanted mirror. "He's my friend," she said.

Jealous and angry, Gaston snatched the mirror. "Kill the Beast!" he shouted.

Belle tried to stop him, but he locked her and Maurice in the cottage. Then, with torches flaring, Gaston led the townspeople through the forest and to the castle.







As the crowd approached, Mrs Potts ran to the Beast. “What shall we do?” she cried.

But with Belle gone, the Beast no longer cared about anything. “Just let them come,” he said.

BOOM! The outside doors shook as the villagers tried to force their way into the castle.



The doors flew open with a crash,
and the townspeople stormed inside.
But the servants were ready.



The hat rack punched, the wardrobe slammed her doors, and the chairs kicked.

After a fierce battle, the servants finally chased the townspeople away from the castle.



Only Gaston remained. Finding the Beast alone, he raised his bow. But the Beast would not fight. When Gaston's arrow hit, the Beast staggered backwards, crashing through the window and on to the castle roof.

"What's the matter?" Gaston taunted. "Too kind and gentle to fight back?"





Before Gaston could deliver the final blow, Belle screamed out: “No!” She and Maurice had escaped from the cottage and raced to the castle.

The Beast heard her voice and raised his head. “Belle,” he whispered.

Hope filled the Beast's heart and gave him the will to defend himself. He turned and held Gaston near the roof's edge. Then the Beast stopped. He no longer wanted to hurt anyone, not even Gaston. Instead, he let the bully go, and began to climb towards Belle.

But Gaston saw his chance, and stabbed the Beast in the back.



“Aaah!” The Beast roared with pain and whipped round.

Gaston was accidentally knocked off the roof, and plunged towards the rocks below.





Belle pulled the Beast to safety and kneeled beside him.
“You came back,” he whispered. “At least I got to see
you one last time.”

“Please don’t leave me,” said Belle. “I love you.”





As she spoke, the last rose petal fell.
Then, suddenly, magical sparkles began
to swirl around the Beast. He rose into
the air, turning slowly in a shower
of light. Belle watched in disbelief as
the Beast began to change ...



... into a handsome prince! “Belle,”
he cried. “It’s me!”

Belle gazed into the prince’s eyes.
“It really is you!” she said in wonder.





Magic swirled above the castle. Happy cries rang out as the servants transformed back into their human shapes. The spell was finally broken.

“It’s a miracle!” Lumiere shouted.




No one was more joyful than Belle and her prince. The servants watched them waltz across the ballroom.

"Are they going to live happily ever after?" Chip asked his mother.

"Of course, my dear," Mrs Potts replied. And that's exactly what they did.





Belle dreams
of adventures like those
in her favourite books, and
longs to leave her small town.
Her own adventure begins when she
goes in search of her missing father,
and is imprisoned in a castle.
What will Belle discover about
the Beast and the enchanted
objects who live there?

